

Message Text

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45

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CPR-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

FBIE-00 USSS-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 IOE-00 /074 W

----- 042745

O 271810Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6051

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE UNN

UNCLAS USUN 0742

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, ROBINSON AND NILAND

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ASEC, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROTEST OVER SHOOTING INCIDENT

1. SOVIET CHARGE KHARLAMOV AND RICHARD OVINNIKOV (SMUN) CALLED ON AMBASSADOR BENNETT ON THEIR URGENT REQUEST AT 10:15 A.M. FEBRUARY 27 TO PROTEST 3 A.M. SHOOTING INCIDENT AT SOVIET COMPLEX IN RIVERDALE. AMBASSADOR WHITE ALSO PRESENT. SOVIETS CHARGED THAT NOTWITHSTANDING ALL SOVIET PROTESTS ON OCCASION PAST INCIDENTS, NOTHING HAD BEEN DONE BY USG. THIS WAS THIRD TIME SINCE 1971 THAT SOVIET RESIDENCES HAD BEEN FIRED UPON. THERE WAS CONSTANT VIOLENCE AGAINST SOVIET PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY BUT USG, WHICH IS A POWERFUL GOVERNMENT, DID NOTHING ABOUT IT AND TOOK NO PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

2. KHARLAMOV ASSERTED THAT NO POLICE WERE ON DUTY AT TIME OF INCIDENT. AMBASSADOR BENNETT SAID WE WOULD CHECK ON THIS QUESTION.

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3. OVINNIKOV COMMENTED THAT, IF INFORMATION APPEARED IN SOVIET PRESS, HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE REACTION OF THE SOVIET PUBLIC WOULD BE. HE INSISTED THAT THREATS AGAINST SOVIETS WERE ESCALATING AND DEMANDED THAT SOMETHING BE DONE TO ARREST AND PROSECUTE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED.

4. AMBASSADOR BENNETT EXPRESSED STRONG REGRET OVER INCIDENT, CHARACTERIZING IT AS INTOLERABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE, AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT NO ONE WAS HURT. HE SAID WE HAD BEEN TRYING TO ESTABLISH FACTS SINCE EARLY MORNING AND WOULD INFORM SOVIET MISSION WHEN WE HAD INFORMATION. HE AND WHITE COUNTERED SOVIET CHARGES OF U.S. INACTION BY POINTING OUT THAT FIFTEEN ARRESTS HAD BEEN MADE UNDER FEDERAL ACT DURING LAST SEVERAL WEEKS. BENNETT SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO POINT OUT THAT SOVIETS DID NOT OFFER MUCH COOPERATION IN HANDLING INCIDENTS OF HARRASSMENT AND VIOLENCE. IT WAS THEIR RIGHT TO DENY COOPERATION, OF COURSE, BUT IT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR ALL CONCERNED TO GET FACTS IF THEY WOULD EXTEND APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE. MEETING ENDED WITH REITERATED ASSURANCES ON OUR PART AND IN ATMOSPHERE OF SURPRISING CORDIALITY.

5. LATER OVINNIKOV TELEPHONED BENNETT TO SAY THAT FBI PERSONNEL HAD BEEN ADMITTED TO SOVIET COMPLEX TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION.
BENNETT

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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